

Tennessee's Early Intervention System

The Guiding Principle of TEIS

The guiding principle of **TEIS** is family first - the needs of the child and family are the first consideration. Best practice dictates the need for a continuum of early intervention services that provides both quality and appropriate options to the family. Through this continuum, an individualized plan of services can be tailored to the needs, wishes, and priorities of the family to support the development of their young child.

The Mission Statement of TEIS

The mission of TEIS includes:

- The empowerment of families in which there is an infant or toddler, ages birth to three years, with a known disability or a condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delays;
- The promotion and coordination of a comprehensive system of early intervention services to meet the needs of all eligible children and their families; and
- The development and implementation of strategies and procedures, which ensure families and their children, a smooth transition into, within, and out of early intervention services.

Accomplishing the Mission

TEIS accomplishes its mission through:

- a) **increasing** the awareness among Tennessee's citizens of the value in early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities;
- b) **providing** resource information and appropriate referrals regarding basic services to families and professionals;
- c) **supporting** families in the ongoing process of finding, accessing, and coordinating early intervention services;
- d) **fostering** coordination and communication among service providers on behalf of families;
- e) **assisting** families in the process of planning for and accomplishing transitions between service settings;
- f) **operating** a statewide network of nine district level "points of entry" and a statewide toll-free telephone number to assist families and to defray costs in accessing **TEIS**;
- g) **filling** service gaps to meet the Individualized Family Service Plan (**IFSP**) requirements; and
- h) **developing** a fully functioning statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers and their families in natural settings that respect families' individual lifestyles.

